

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FODAG

PARIS FOR MAYNES, USUN FOR BARRY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, AORG
SUBJECT: MAYNES VISIT TO UN AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, C.W. MAYNES, HAD A FULL DAY WITH UN AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES IN ROME ON MONDAY, MAY 8, DURING WHICH TONE WAS OF CAUTIOUS CONCORD. HE ALSO MET BRIEFLY WITH GOI FONMIN OFFICIAL ON UN MATTERS (MR. BOTTAI).

2. HIGHLIGHT OF DAY WAS MEETING WITH FAO DG SAOUMA WHICH WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS: HALF HOUR PRIVATE SESSION WITH DG (MOSTLY ON LEBANON); HOUR SESSION WITH DG AND SENIOR OFFICIALS ON FOA MATTERS; AND A LUNCH HOSTED BY DG INCLUDING TOP FAO AND MEMBER STATE OFFICIALS (PHILLIPS, SKOUFIS, YRIART, DE MEREDIEU, SANTA CRUZ, VOGEL, BUKAR SHAIB, BRITO, TRKULJA, BEL HADJ AMOR, MAHDI, LINNEN, BARRY, BAKER AND HIGGINSON.

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3. SAOUMA WAS WELL BRIEFED AND STRESSED NEED FOR U.S. SUPPORT OF FAO DELIBERATELY UNDERLINING SUCH WELCOME THEMES AS REDUCING NUMBER OF MEETINGS, HOLDING DOWN HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL, IMPACT OF FIELD PROGRAMS ON THE NEEDIEST, GREATER EFFICIENCY, INTERNAL EVALUATION, EMERGENCY NATURE OF TCP, AND COORDINATION WITH UNDP REPS IN FIELD. SAOUMA STRESSED HIS PRIORITIES ON PREVENTION OF POST-HARVEST LOSSES PROGRAM

AND WORLD FOOD SECURITY SCHEME.

4. MAYNES TOOK PAINS TO LET SAOUMA TALK FIRST WHICH SEEMED TO KEEP MEETING ON GOOD TONE. MAYNES ALSO TOUCHED ON AREAS OF ACCORD, BUT AT SAME TIME EXPLAINED U.S. POSITION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN ASSURING SA'S WERE DOING A GOOD JOB IN DEVELOPMENT AND THEREFORE NEED FOR EVALUATION AND BUDGETARY STRINGENCY.

5. ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MAYNES POINTED OUT OUR PREFERENCE FOR SUPPORTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. HE NOTED FAO'S REGULAR BUDGET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WAS NOT LARGE BUT IT HAD STARTED OFF A STRING OF REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN REGULAR BUDGETS OF OTHER SA'S. OUR POSITION WASN'T ABSOLUTE OPPOSITION, AS WE RECOGNIZED NEED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN REGULAR BUDGET IN SOME CASES, BUT THIS WAS ONLY TRUE IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS AND THERE WAS AS YET NO AGREED DEFINITION OF SUCH SPECIAL SITUATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME DISTINCT CRITERIA ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN REGULAR BUDGET WERE ESSENTIAL AS IN CASE OF TCP WITH EMPHASIS ON EMERGENCY NATURE, SHORT TERM AND STRONG EVALUATION TO SHOW CRITERIA HAD BEEN MET AND MERIT OF PROJECTS.

6. SAOUMA UNDERLINED HIS OPPOSITION TO JIU REPORT ON OVERHEAD. MAYNES NOTED PROBLEM AND ASSURED SAOUMA THAT USH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD NOT REACHED A POSITION ON JIU REPORT AND WOULD CONSIDER SAOUMA'S LETTER IN ARRIVING AT A DECISION. SAOUMA ALSO NOTED THAT THE JIU REPORT ON USE OF EXPERTS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS RAISED PROBLEMS ON WHICH HE WAS TRYING TO REACH A COMMON SA RESPONSE.

7. MAYNES' VISITS (SEE SEPTTEL) WITH VOGEL (WORLD FOOD PROGRAM), HANNAH (WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND BIRNBAUM (INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT) ALL WENT WELL. HIGGINSON AND BAKER SAID THAT ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS WITH FAO HAD SUBSTANTIALLY EASED IN PASTMONTHS AND RELATIONS WERE QUITE GOOD NOW. BIRNBAUM NOTED THAT FAO'S INVESTMENT CENTER HAD RECENTLY AGREED TO HANDLE 7 OF 19 PROJECTS PLANNED BY IFAD IN 1978 AND THAT THIS WAS ABOUT AS MANY AS CENTER FELT IT COULD TAKE ON.

8. COMMENT: WHILE IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO HEAR THAT MORE FAVORABLE INTER-AGENCY CLIMATE IN ROME HAS ARRIVED WITH SPRING, MOST NOTABLE ASPECT OF VISIT WAS SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT MADE BY DG TO HAVE VISIT GO SMOOTHLY AND TO HEAR OUT U.S. VIEWS ON SUCH ISSUES AS BUDGET AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN RELATIVELY UNRUFFLED MANNER. THE WORRY BEADS WERE LITTLE IN EVIDENCE. HIGH POINT WAS IN SAOUMA'S POST-

LUNCHEON TOAST, WHICH, IN SHARP CONTRAST WITH HIS REPLY
TO MAYNES' TOAST AT OCTOBER LUNCHEON IN WASHINGTON, PAID U.S.
ITS FULL DUE AS MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO ORIGINS, SUPPORT,
TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENTS, AND FUTURE OF FAO. FURTHER, HE
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MAYNES' EFFORTS TO BUILD BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF UN AGENCIES, FAO INCLUDED, IN U.S. PUBLIC
AND CONGRESS, MAKING CLEAR THAT HE HAD READ KEY STATEMENTS WITH
INTEREST. IN SHORT, DG MADE A VISIBLE EFFORT TO CLEAR SOME
OF THE RUBBLE HE HAD DEPOSITED ON THE BRIDGES TO WASHINGTON.
GARDNER

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